

# Arlington Open Space and Recreation Plan 2022-2029





# Town of Arlington Open Space and Recreation Plan

## 2022-2029

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*Arlington values equity, diversity, and inclusion. We are committed to building a community where everyone is heard, respected, and protected.*

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	ii
SECTION 1. PLAN OVERVIEW.....	1
SECTION 2. INTRODUCTION .....	2
A. Statement of Purpose.....	2
B. Planning Process and Public Participation .....	2
C. Major Accomplishments Since 2015 .....	8
SECTION 3. COMMUNITY SETTING .....	14
A. Regional Context .....	14
B. History of the Community.....	19
C. Community Characteristics .....	23
D. Development Patterns and Trends.....	32
SECTION 4. Environmental Inventory and Analysis....	40
A. Topography, Geology, and Soils .....	40
B. Landscape Character .....	42
C. Water Resources.....	43
D. Vegetation.....	53
E. Fisheries and Wildlife .....	57
F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments .....	63
G. Environmental Challenges .....	73
SECTION 5. INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST .....	83
A. Brief History of Arlington's Open Space.....	83
B. Arlington's Open Space and Recreational Resources .....	85
SECTION 6. COMMUNITY VISION .....	129
A. Description of Process .....	129
B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Community Goals .....	129
SECTION 7. ANALYSIS OF NEEDS .....	131
A. Summary of Natural Resource Protection Needs..	131
B. Summary of Community Needs.....	137
C. Summary of Management Needs and Potential Change of Use .....	147
D. Regional and Statewide Needs.....	153
SECTION 8. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES .....	159
SECTION 9. ACTION PLAN .....	161
SECTION 10. PUBLIC COMMENTS.....	178
SECTION 11. REFERENCES .....	179

## List of Tables

Table 3-1. Population Density of Arlington and Neighboring Towns .....	25
Table 3-2 Change in Age Groups as a Percent of Total Population, 2010 to 2019 .....	25
Table 3-3. Population Projections by Age Group.....	26
Table 3-4. Racial Identity of Arlington Residents .....	26
Table 3-5. Select Household Characteristics, 2010 and 2019 .....	27
Table 3-6. Top Employers in Arlington .....	30
Table 3-7. Arlington Zoning Districts by Land Area.....	38
Table 4-1. Water Resources in Arlington .....	45
Table 4-2. Impaired Water Bodies in Arlington .....	46
Table 4-3. EPA/MyRWA Water Quality 2020 Report Card for Water Bodies in Arlington.....	46
Table 4-4. Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Plant Species .....	56
Table 4-5. Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Fisheries and Wildlife Species.....	62
Table 4-6. DEP Tier Classified Sites in Arlington .....	73
Table 4-7. DEP Sites with Activity and Use Limitations (AUL).....	74
Table 4-8. Open Space and Recreational Areas within and near EJ Areas .....	80
Table 5-1. Overview of Arlington's Open Space and Recreational Resources .....	87

## List of Figures

Figure 3-1. Population Projections for Arlington through 2040 .....	24
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Figure 3-2. Education Attainment of Arlington Residents 25 Years and Older.....	28
Figure 3-3. Arlington's 2010 vs 2019 Household Income Comparison.....	29
Figure 3-4. Employment of Arlington Residents 16 Years and Older 2010 and 2019.....	31

## List of Maps

Map 3-1. Community Setting .....	15
Map 3-2. Environmental Justice Communities .....	33
Map 3-3. Zoning Map.....	37
Map 4-1. Soils and Special Landscape Features .....	41
Map 4-2. Water Resources, Wetlands, and Floodplains.	44
Map 4-3. Unique Resources and Features .....	64
Map 4-4. Environmental Justice Communities and Access to Resources.....	79
Map 5-1. Open Space and Recreational Resources Inventory.....	86
Map 7-1. Arlington's Tree Equity Score.....	140
Map 9-1. Action Plan Map Highlighting Selected OSRP Objectives .....	163

## Appendices

Appendix A: Public Engagement	
Appendix B: Open Space and Recreational Resources Inventory	
Appendix C: 2020 Envision Arlington Annual Survey Summary	
Appendix D: ADA Self Evaluation	
Appendix E: Letters of Support	

# SECTION 1. PLAN OVERVIEW

The 2022 Arlington Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is a policy document the Town will use to guide the protection and enhancement of its open space and recreational resources. Arlington last updated its OSRP in 2015 and has since initiated and completed a range of planning efforts to address that plan's goals. This OSRP is an opportunity to unify the Town's planning efforts across numerous topics—including environmental stewardship, natural hazard and climate change resilience, and complete streets—as they relate to open space and recreation planning to assess what the Town is doing well and how it can better achieve desired outcomes.

This OSRP establishes the following goals to guide the Town's open space and recreation planning:

- Protect the natural environment to retain its important functions and values and help Arlington adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- Ensure the Town's recreational facilities, conservation areas, and other public spaces meet local needs and are accessible, safe, and welcoming to all Arlington residents.

- Support local and regional capacity to meet the needs for recreational opportunities, natural resource protection, and overall resources management to be resilient to climate change.
- Build environmental stewardship and public awareness to support the Town's recreational facilities, conservation areas, and other public spaces.

To update the OSRP, Arlington initiated a sustained engagement process to raise public awareness and better understand the town's diverse needs for both users and providers of open space and recreational resources. An analysis of these collective short- and long-term needs resulted in the seven-year action plan, which requires collaboration between municipal departments, boards, and committees, in addition to partnerships with local nonprofit and community groups and other municipalities.

Establishing sustainable funding mechanisms will help Arlington achieve its goals of protecting natural resources and providing recreational opportunities for all residents.